



CITY OF EASTHAMPTON • MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Nicole LaChapelle

PRESS RELEASE

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Easthampton Receives \$800,000 for Infrastructure Improvements and Housing Rehabilitation Programs

EASTHAMPTON, MA, February 3, 2021 – The City of Easthampton in partnership with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission announced the receipt of an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant award from the Massachusetts Department of Community Development. This grant funds the final construction phase of the Admiral Street neighborhood infrastructure program which will improve outdated and inefficient infrastructure on Charles Street; a planning study to comprehensively evaluate and plan for the infrastructure needs in the New City neighborhood; a new Aging-in-Place grant program for low- and moderate-income senior citizens to make improvements that will allow them to safely remain in their homes; and continuation of the Housing Rehabilitation program for low- and moderate-income homeowners to address housing related code violations, safety issues, and other necessary improvements.

“I’m very glad this great collaboration between federal, state, and local government is continuing” said State Representative Daniel R. Carey. “Infrastructure investments aren’t always the most exciting projects but they are crucial to our community. Bringing these financial resources in from out of town is so important in addressing our locals needs.”

The Charles Street phase of the infrastructure project is expected to begin in the late spring and when finished, will complete the infrastructure improvements in the Admiral Street Neighborhood which began in 2014. The infrastructure improvements will include sewer line replacement, stormwater drainage improvements, and street surface improvements, including paving. The existing sanitary and storm sewer were originally installed between 1905 and 1916 and there has been little infrastructure improvement since its original construction. This project is the final of four phases of construction (see map) and stems from a 2014 CDBG grant that funded the project design and engineering. The first phase of construction, funded through a

2016 CDBG grant, was completed in the fall of 2017 and took place on Admiral Street (north), Church Street, George Street, and a portion of Briggs Street. The second phase of construction, funded through a 2018 CDBG grant, was completed in 2019 and took place on Admiral Street (south), Clark Street, Olympia Street, and North Hampshire Street. The third phase of construction for Maple Street was funded through a 2019 CDBG was completed in 2020.

The New City Planning Study will comprehensively evaluate and plan for the infrastructure needs in the New City neighborhood (see map) bound by Ferry Street at the north, Parsons Street to the east, Everett Street to the south and Lower Mill Pond to the west. This neighborhood was identified as needing comprehensive infrastructure improvements due to the aging public water, sewer and drainage systems, limited sidewalk and walking surfaces (most of which are in poor condition and do not meet accessibility standards) and the aging roadway surfaces.

The Aging-in-Place grant program will provide assistance and small grants to low- and moderate-income elderly homeowners to implement improvements which will allow them to remain safely in their homes. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to safety repairs, grab bars, handrails, non-slip stair treads, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, door and window locks, removal of code violations and other similar repairs which improve the safety and functionality of one's home.

The final grant component is continuation of the Housing Rehabilitation program which provides assistance and deferred-payment-loans up to \$35,000 to low- and moderate-income homeowners to address housing related code violations, improve unsafe or unhealthy conditions, improve weatherization, and other necessary repairs.

“These programs that provide assistance and grants to low- and moderate-income homeowners for improvements that allow them to continue to safely live in their homes are essential to keeping our community strong” said Assistant City Planner, Jamie Webb. She continued, “Owning a home takes a lot of upkeep and our economically disadvantaged and older homeowners often have difficulty affording the larger ticket items. As residents age, this is compounded by the need for accessibility modifications in their houses. Left unresolved, these needed repairs can grow from difficulty navigating and living in the house to creating unsafe living conditions which could eventually impact the neighborhood.”

The Housing Rehabilitation and Aging-in-Place programs are administered on a first-come, first serve basis by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). Easthampton residents can be added to the program waitlist by contacting PVPC's Housing Coordinator, Shirley Stephens at (413) 781-6045. Due to COVID, the phone line is not staffed regularly, and callers may need to leave a message. The program is available to households who make up to 80 percent of the Area Median Income (FY 2020 table below).

Household Size	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
Income Limit	\$47,850	\$54,650	\$61,500	\$68,300	\$73,800	\$79,250	\$84,700	\$90,200

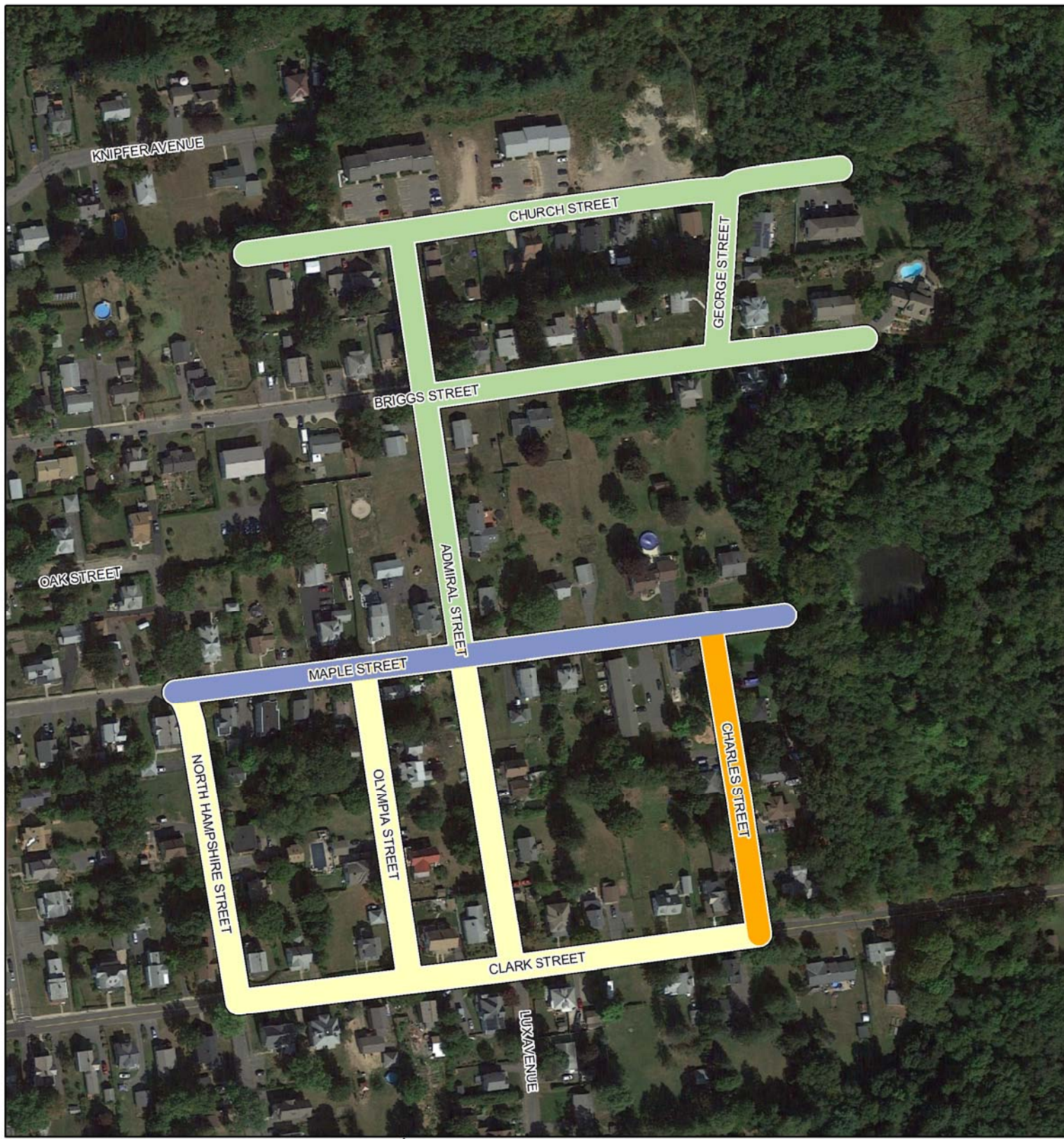
For more information about the program, including eligibility requirements and income limits, please visit the Easthampton Planning Department “current projects” webpage and look for the “Community Development Block Grant 2020” project: <https://www.easthamptonma.gov/forms-documents/planning/current-projects.html>

Read the Governors press release: <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-34-million-in-community-development-block-grants-to-41>

For more information about the Massachusetts CDBG program, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/community-development-block-grant-cdbg>

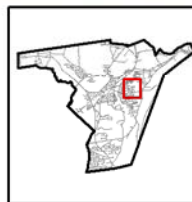
For more information about the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, visit: <https://www.pvpc.org/about>

Easthampton, Massachusetts
Admiral Street Neighborhood Improvements
Project Area Map



0 130 260 390 520 Feet
NORTH

- Phase I - Completed Project Area 2017
- Phase II - Completed Project Area 2019
- Phase III - Completed Project Area 2020
- Phase IV - Future Project Area 2021





New City Planning Study Area

Easthampton, MA

1 inch = 250 Feet



March 3, 2021



Data shown on this map is provided for planning and informational purposes only. The municipality and CAI Technologies are not responsible for any use for other purposes or misuse or misrepresentation of this map.

City of Easthampton

Aging-in-Place Program

The City of Easthampton, with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, has grant funding to assist qualified seniors age 65 and over to fund the Easthampton Aging in Place Program. Low- and moderate-income senior homeowners would be eligible to receive a grant of up to \$5,000 and assistance to implement improvements which will allow occupants to remain safely in their homes. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to safety repairs, grab bars, handrails, non-slip stair treads, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, door and window locks, removal of code violations and other similar repairs which improve the safety and functionality of one's home.

In addition to being **65 or more years of age** and **residing in the home that you own**, applicants must also **meet the income guidelines according to household size**.

If you are interested in the program and meet the age, ownership, and income limits, please complete the following and return to the address at the bottom of this page.

My annual household income is not greater than: (circle one according to your household size):

HH Size	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
Income	\$47,850	\$54,650	\$61,500	\$68,300	\$73,800	\$79,250	\$84,700	\$90,200

(Please note these are current FY 2020 income limits and are subject to change)

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Type of improvements needed: _____

Please return to: Ted Harvey, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104



HOUSING REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

City of Easthampton

The City of Easthampton, with assistance from the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, has grant funding to assist qualified low and moderate income homeowners in eliminating building code violations, improving unsafe or unhealthy conditions, improving weatherization, or making other necessary repairs. If interested, please fill out the following form and return to the PVPC. **ALL** information received is strictly confidential and will be maintained in the Springfield office of the PVPC. If you have questions, please contact PVPC's Housing Coordinator Shirley Stephens at (413) 781-6045.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Type of improvements needed: _____

For P.V.P.C. use only

Date Received: _____

Staff Initials: _____

My annual household income is not greater than: (circle one according to your household size):

	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
Income	\$47,850	\$54,650	\$61,500	\$68,300	\$73,800	\$79,250	\$84,700	\$90,200

Please return to: Shirley Stephens, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, 60 Congress Street, 1st Floor, Springfield, MA 01104